

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
B-Happy Commercial Thinning  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-99-07  
Sale Tract No. E-99-127

**DECISION:**

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR090-99-07 and the Finding Of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the proposed action, Alternative 1. The B-Happy Commercial Thinning is located in T. 18 S., R. 6 W., Section 33 Willamette Meridian. Implementation of this action will result in the commercial thinning harvest of approximately 434 acres (including road right-of-ways) within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Riparian Reserve of the Matrix land use allocation. Approximately 128 acres of the Riparian Reserve will be thinned to accelerate the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. A cruised volume of 5.54 million board feet of timber will be harvested. The timber harvest method will be cable yarding with purchaser's option to use tractor yarding on slopes less than 35 percent. The Proposed Action includes forest management activities, temporary spur construction, road renovation and improvement, and road decommissioning. All the project design features identified in the EA (pages 4-6) will be implemented to mitigate any impacts to existing habitat and resources.

The proposed Action was selected because it best meets the goals and objectives of the GFMA and Riparian Reserve of the Wolf Creek Watershed as discussed in the EA. The proposed action is tiered to and is in compliance with the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994, and the Eugene District Record of Decision (ROD)/Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995.

Watershed analysis has been completed for the Wolf Creek Watershed. The proposed action would maintain or restore riparian conditions by protecting present structural features of the riparian currently present. The treatment is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation was completed with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on this proposed action, along with other actions proposed in the Eugene District for Fiscal Year 1999. The Fish and Wildlife Service issued its Biological Opinion on October 23, 1998, completing consultation. According to Eugene District's Biological Assessment for habitat modifying projects for fiscal year 1999, the B-Happy commercial thinning would "*May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" the Northern spotted owl due to loss of dispersal habitat within the unit. There would be approximately 80% of federal lands in a dispersal condition before and after treatment within the quarter township. This proposal would have a "*No Affect*" on the marbled murrelet and other federally listed/proposed terrestrial species.

This proposed action was determined by the Level 1 Coast Range Province Team to be a "*May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" for the coastal coho salmon ( *Oncorhynchus kisutch* ). The Biological Assessment was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for concurrence of the "*May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" determination on June 16, 1999. A letter of concurrence from NMFS was issued on June 24, 1999 and received on June 30, 1999 completing consultation.

The Bureau of Land Management, Coast Range Resource Area consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians as part of the cultural inventory to be conducted in conjunction with the environmental analyzes process for the Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 proposed timber sale program. A letter was sent on September 24, 1997. No response was received.

**FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI):**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised on June 2, 1999, as available for a 30-day public review period in the Eugene Register-Guard. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. One public comment was received. Their comments were considered and were responded to in a letter on July 23, 1999. Copies of the ROD and FONSI were mailed to these individuals.

Signed by Dan Howells, Acting, Coast Range Field Manager on July 23, 1999.